



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

**PRESS RELEASE**



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## **DISABILITY SERVICE LEADERS AND ADVOCATES CELEBRATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

**Washington, DC**--On Thursday, March 26, District agencies and organizations will celebrate March's designation as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The ***Can Do, Like You Reception*** will take place at 4 pm in the Mayor's Press Briefing Room, G-9, at the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Invited speakers include Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton; D.C. Deputy Mayor Brenda Donald, Health and Human Services; and D.C. Councilmember Yvette Alexander who also chairs the Council's Committee on Health and Human Services. People with disabilities engaged in program services with Art Enables, St. John's Community Services, and the Art and Drama Therapy Institute will share their creative talents and skills during the event.

Established in 1987, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month seeks to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. President Ronald Reagan created the initial Proclamation calling for all Americans to provide the encouragement and opportunities necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential. The District of Columbia labor force data indicates that there are 425,152 working age residents. Of those of working age (18-64) 37,770 are estimated to have a disability, which represents 8.9% of the District's working age population.

Thursday's reception is a collaboration of the D.C. Department on Disability Services, the Developmental Disabilities Council, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, University Legal Services (DC's Protection and Advocacy Program) and Project ACTION!, a regional coalition of self-advocates and self-advocacy groups from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. ACTION! stands for Advocacy, Change, Training, Information, Organizing and Networking.

For more information about the *Can Do, Like You* reception, contact Courtney Clark at 202-459-4013, [cclark@dcqualitytrust.org](mailto:cclark@dcqualitytrust.org); or Jocelyn Harris at 202-730-1687 or [Jocelyn.harris2@dc.gov](mailto:Jocelyn.harris2@dc.gov).

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The Department on Disability Services was established in 2007 to address deficiencies in services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is comprised of the Developmental Disabilities Administration and the Rehabilitation Services Administration. DDS also manages the Social Security Disability Determination Division. Learn more at [www.dds.dc.gov](http://www.dds.dc.gov) and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/DDS.DC>.

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